

Amendment and Response

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Serial No.: 09/626,621

Confirmation No.: 2487

Filed: 27 July 2000

For: GRAPHIC IMAGE FILM REGISTRATION SYSTEMS AND METHODS

34. (NEW) A method of providing a composite image on a substrate, the method comprising:
- applying a first film to the substrate while inducing a constant stretch to the first film, the first film comprising a first portion of the composite image;
 - providing first registration marks distributed along a length of the first film;
 - providing a second film to the substrate, the second film comprising second registration marks distributed along a length of the second film and a second portion of the composite image;
 - dispensing the second film under tension along the length of the second film;
 - detecting the first registration marks and the second registration marks while dispensing the second film;
 - varying the tension along the length of the second film based on the detection of the first registration marks and the second registration marks to register the first portion and the second portion of the composite image along the lengths of the first film and the second film; and
 - applying the second film to the substrate while varying the tension along the length of the second film, wherein the second portion of the composite image on the second film is aligned with the first portion of the composite image on the first film.
35. (NEW) A method according to claim 34, further comprising removing the second registration marks from the second film.
36. (NEW) A method according to claim 35, wherein removing the second registration marks from the second film comprises removing a portion of the second film.
37. (NEW) A method according to claim 35, wherein removing the second registration marks from the second film comprises cutting the second film before the second film is applied to the substrate.
38. (NEW) A method according to claim 34, wherein the first registration marks are invisible.

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39. (NEW) A method according to claim 34, wherein the first registration marks are washable.
40. (NEW) A method according to claim 34, wherein the second registration marks are invisible.
41. (NEW) A method according to claim 34, wherein the second registration marks are washable.
42. (NEW) A method according to claim 34, further comprising:
detecting a distance between a leading edge and a trailing edge of one second registration mark of the plurality of second registration marks, wherein the distance between the leading edge and the trailing edge is indicative of a position across the width of the second film; and
steering the second film to register the second portion of the composite image to the first portion of the composite image in a direction transverse to the length of the second film.
43. (NEW) A method according to claim 34, further comprising:
detecting a distance between a leading edge and a trailing edge of the plurality of second registration marks, wherein the detected distance is indicative of a position across the width of the second film; and
steering the second film to register the second portion of the composite image to the first portion of the composite image in a direction transverse to the length of the second film.
44. (NEW) A method of providing a composite image on a substrate, the method comprising:
providing a first film on the substrate, the first film comprising a first portion of the composite image;
providing first registration marks distributed along a length of the first film;

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providing a second film, the second film comprising second registration marks distributed along a length of the second film and a second portion of the composite image;

aligning the second portion of the composite image on the second film with the first portion of the composite image on the first film;

dispensing the second film under tension along the length of the second film;

detecting the first and second registration marks during the dispensing;

varying the tension along the length of the second film based on the detection of the first and second registration marks to register the first and second portions of the composite image along the lengths of the first and second films;

removing the second registration marks from the second film; and

applying the second film to the substrate after removing the second registration marks from the second film.

45. (NEW) A method according to claim 44, wherein removing the second registration marks from the second film comprises removing a portion of the second film.

46. (NEW) A method according to claim 44, wherein removing the second registration marks from the second film comprises cutting the second film.

47. (NEW) A method of providing a composite image on a substrate, the method comprising:

providing a first film on the substrate, the first film comprising a first portion of the composite image;

providing first registration marks distributed along a length of the first film;

providing a second film, the second film comprising second registration marks distributed along a length of the second film and a second portion of the composite image;

aligning the second portion of the composite image on the second film with the first portion of the composite image on the first film;

dispensing the second film under tension along the length of the second film;

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detecting the first and second registration marks during the dispensing;

varying the tension along the length of the second film based on the detection of the first and second registration marks to register the first and second portions of the composite image along the lengths of the first and second films;

detecting a distance between a leading edge and a trailing edge of the plurality of second registration marks, wherein the detected distance is indicative of a position across the width of the second film;

steering the second film to register the second portion of the composite image to the first portion of the composite image in a direction transverse to the length of the second film; and

applying the second film to the substrate after the steering.